

Newspaper Clips

August 20, 2011

Jansatta ND 20/08/2011

P10

अस्थायी परिसरों में काम कर रहे हैं आठ नए आईआईटी

नई दिल्ली, 19 अगस्त (भाषा)। देश में 11वीं योजना के दौरान जिन आठ नए आईआईटी संस्थानों की स्थापना की गई है, वे अस्थायी परिसरों में काम कर रहे हैं। मानव विकास संसाधन राज्य मंत्री डी पुरंदेश्वरी ने कहा कि 11वीं योजना के दौरान भुवनेश्वर, हैदराबाद, पटना, गांधीनगर, रोपड़, जोधपुर, मंडी और इंदौर में आईआईटी की स्थापना की गई है। वे अस्थायी परिसरों में काम कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने के पी रामलिंगम के सवाल के लिखित जवाब में राज्यसभा को बताया कि हैदराबाद, रोपड़, भुवनेश्वर और राजस्थान आईआईटी के लिए भूमि सौंप दी गई है जबकि पटना, इंदौर और मंडी आईआईटी को आंशिक रूप से भूमि दी गई है। उन्होंने बताया कि हर नए आईआईटी को इसकी स्थापना के पहले तीन साल के लिए हर साल 30 संकाय पद स्वीकृत किए गए हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि नए आईआईटी द्वारा अच्छे संकाय को आकर्षित करने के लिए विभिन्न कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं।

Deccan Chronicle Hyderabad 19.08.11, p-7

ALL FOR SEATS

IIT hopefuls may go through twin tests

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, AUG. 18

Even though the Union government plans to conduct in a common entrance exam for all higher education institutions in the country, the IITs seem to differ as they want the top one lakh students who clear the Common Entrance Test (CET) to take up joint entrance exami-

nation (JEE) to join the institute.

This proposal will make IIT aspirants to sit for both the entrance examinations.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle* on Thursday, Prof. V.G. Idichandy, deputy director, Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, said the Union government had asked Dr T.

About 15 lakh students may take up CET but if a student wants to join IIT then he needs to be one among the top

— Prof. V.G. Idichandy
Deputy director, IIT-M

Ramasami, department of science and technology secretary, to come up with modalities to conduct single common entrance test for admitting students to higher education institutions across the country.

"About 15 lakh students may take up CET but if a student wants to join IIT then he needs to be one

among the top one lakh who clears the test and he may be asked to sit again for JEE as we want to admit only the best students. IITs are special and we serve as centres of excellence so we want to conduct our own entrance examination. But ultimately everything rests with IIT council which governs all IITs", he said.

HindustanTimes

Title : NRI-led team invents chips that mimic human brain

Author : Anirudh Bhattacharyya letters@hindustantimes.com

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NRI-led team invents chips that mimic human brain

Anirudh Bhattacharyya
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TORONTO: A team of IBM researchers, led by an Indian-American scientist, has claimed to have developed a pair of artificial computer chips that can, in some ways, "emulate the brain's abilities for perception, action and cognition."

These chips, mimicking some of the brain's functions, could be building blocks for next gener-

ation cognitive computers that "are expected to learn through experiences, find correlations, create hypotheses, and remember — and learn from — the outcomes, mimicking the brain's structural and synaptic plasticity", according to an IBM release.

The two prototype working designs, unveiled on Thursday, are not biological in nature but use digital silicon circuits influenced by neurobiology. The project is led by Indian-American



■ Dharmendra Modha is a graduate of IIT-Mumbai.

scientist Dharmendra Modha, who is originally from Porbander and graduated from IIT-Mumbai.

In an interview, Modha, who is Manager, Cognitive Computing at IBM's Almaden research facility in California's Silicon Valley, did not put a timeframe to when computers based on simulated-brain architecture would go onstream but said, "It's inevitable though unpredictable today."

The project has also attracted \$21 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Advance Research Projects Agency or DARPA.

Known as SYNAPSE, short for Systems of Neuromorphic Adaptive Plastic Scalable Electronics, the project brings together a multi-disciplinary team that includes not just IBM Research scientists, but also those from Columbia University, Cornell University, University of California, Merced and University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Modha, who has been with IBM since 1997, said, "At heart,

today's computers are calculators, they can do fast, analytical, rational computations.

They are not good at the kinds of tasks human beings are very good at. We have the social network of the brain capable of amazing feats."

The "neurosynaptic core" attempts to replicate the brain's cognitive processors, with integrated memory for synapses, computation for neurons and communication for axons.

The Hindu ND 20/08/2011 P3

AISA hails Supreme Court verdict

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The All India Students' Association (AISA) at Jawaharlal Nehru University has hailed the Supreme Court verdict that the cut-off criteria for admission to seats under the OBC category should be calculated from the minimum eligibility marks and not from the marks obtained

by the last general category candidate to secure admission. The original petitioners in the case were two students whose fight was carried forward with strong support shown by AISA (JNU)

AISA (JNU) Secretary Sucheta De said, "This verdict is a vindication of the struggle that began three years ago....this is a moment of cele-

bration for all those who stand by social justice and the constitutional rights of deprived sections of society to reservation."

She also said they had launched a sustained campaign to rectify the way the OBC quotas were being implemented in the university by using admission data obtained through Right to In-

formation Act to prove their arguments.

Dismissing the appeal against the Delhi High court verdict of September 2010, the apex court ordered all universities and colleges in the middle of the admission procedures to re-define eligibility marks as cut-off and fill OBC seats accordingly by August 31.

Confusion cut off

Apex court brings about clarity on marks for OBCs

THERE was considerable confusion over the implementation of the Supreme Court's October 14, 2008, order about cut-off marks for OBC students, which has finally been cleared. Various central educational institutions were applying different yardsticks for admitting OBC candidates. Several central universities had adopted the practice of determining the minimum eligibility/qualifying marks for admission of OBC students with reference to marks secured by the last candidate under the general category. Due to this anomaly, many OBC seats remained unfilled and got diverted to the general category.

The court has now clarified that a factor (the marks of the last candidate in the general category) which is neither known nor ascertained at the time of declaring the admission programme cannot be used to disentitle a candidate to admission, who is otherwise entitled. At the same time, the apex court has also refused to lower the bar for OBC students further than 10 per cent, considering that they are "far better placed economically and socially than SCs/STs". Indeed, lowering the qualifying marks further would have led to a large disparity with the general candidates, thus affecting the excellence of higher education.

Equally significant is the court's order that an OBC seat cannot be converted into a general category one when an eligible OBC candidate is available. But to ensure that there is no confusion in admissions for 2011-12, the court has said that this judgement will not disturb central educational institutions which have already decided the minimum eligibility marks for OBCs based on the marks scored by the last candidate in the general category. Nor has it intervened in those cases where any unfilled OBC seats have already been allotted to general category students. That means that the re-defined provisions will be applicable fully only from the next academic session.

Pioneer ND 20/08/2011 p-5

Common exam for undergraduates likely by 2013

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government intends to have a common examination for undergraduate programmes across the country from 2013 and prepare a common merit list as part of efforts to improve quality of education.

The candidates would qualify for prestigious technical institutes, as per the position in the merit list, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal informed the Lok Sabha on Friday. He said that an expert committee was examining the matter and that this was part of his efforts to provide equal opportunities to both rural and urban students.

Sibal also said that the government would crack down on fake universities, the practice of taking capitation fee, misleading advertisements and other malpractices regarding which a bill is also being brought.

Replying to a debate on a Bill to amend the National Institutes of Technology Act, which proposes structural changes in educational establishments and bringing in its ambit the five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, he said the government is keen on improving the quality of education and in this regard world class universities would be set up in the country.

Sibal further added that in order to tackle malpractices as misleading advertisements for technical institutes through which students are fooled, transaction of money under the table and charging of capitation fees. He pointed out that the Government was preparing Education Malpractices Bill, which would be brought to Parliament soon. He pointed out the Government wants to check mushrooming of such institutes where the

The Government was preparing Education Malpractices Bill, which would be brought to Parliament soon. The Government wants to check mushrooming of such institutes where the father becomes the Chancellor and son the Vice-chancellor, harping on professionalism



father becomes the Chancellor and son the Vice-chancellor, harping on professionalism.

He cautioned the state governments to be careful while providing the No Objection Certificates to set up technical educational institute,

claiming the Central government has not given any NOC to any institute so far. He said government was trying to create an environment in which the private sectors can invest enough to set up quality higher education institutes.

Tribune, ND 20/08/2011 P-1

Soon, single test for college entry

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19
The government is hopeful of conducting the first common entrance exam for entry to all colleges and universities in the country by 2013. The proposed exam will, in one go, test aspirants for all undergraduate (UG) courses, thereby ending the era of multiple examinations for admission to higher education institutions.

This hope was voiced by Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Kapil Sibal in Parliament today when he

was engaging with Lok Sabha members before the passage of the National Institute of Technology (Amendment) Bill 2010 which will make amendments the NIT Act 2007 to include five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research at Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram as institutes of national importance.

Discussing the way forward for higher education reforms, Sibal said, "I hope to have a common entrance exam for entry to the university system in 2013."

The minister added that the proposed exam would

COMMON ENTRANCE

- Govt hopeful of conducting the first test in 2013
- Will end the era of multiple exams
- Exam will have two components - results of Class XII and results of a Scholastic Aptitude Test
- An all-India merit list will be made
- A separate national testing authority may be set up



have two components to assess students for their core skills - results of Class XII exams and results of a SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a standardised exam for admission to colleges in

the US) type exam.

"This all-India test will cover all subjects and will have two parts - Class XII results and a SAT to test general attributes of candidates instead of their domain

knowledge. There will be an all-India merit list and every student will enter college or a university solely on merit. We will then be able to end the malpractice of capitation fee, withholding of security deposits of exam takers and other unfair practices," the minister said.

He ruled out the possibility of allowing admission to universities solely on the results of Class XII as is the practice in states like Tamil Nadu. "That's not possible as Class XII exams only test domain knowledge. These don't test analytical skills. We are waiting for the report of the expert

committee which has been tasked with recommending a format for the proposed test and also gives weightage to Class XII exams and SAT results," Sibal told the Lok Sabha.

The expert committee, headed by T Ramasami, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, will submit his report in September. It is also toying with the idea of setting up a separate national testing authority to conduct the proposed exam which will be massive in scale.

HRD ministry sources said, "A dedicated

Continued on page 8

Soon, single test for college entry

From page 1

testing authority is being contemplated. As for the proposed test, it will replace all the existing exams for entry to UG colleges including Joint Entrance Exam for IITs."

Once the Ramasami report comes, the government will consult states to take the issue forward. Already, the CBSE has, in consultation with state boards, evolved a core science curriculum and implemented it in schools. The commerce curriculum is also ready and will be now

implemented though there are problems in evolving a core curriculum for humanities due to regional and cultural issues involved.

"We have implemented the core curriculum for science; the one for commerce is ready. The idea is to offer a uniform education system to students across boards and thereby have a level-playing field for all those competing in the common entrance exam," Sibal said, allaying fears of MPs that those who fail the common test won't have anywhere to go.

Financial Express ND 20-Aug-11 p4

Common test on anvil for undergraduate courses

The government intends to have a common examination for undergraduate programmes across the country from 2013 and prepare a common merit list as part of efforts to prepare quality of education, HRD minister Kapil Sibal said on Friday. He also said the government would crack down on fake universities, the practice of taking capitation fee, misleading advertisements and other malpractices regarding which a Bill is being brought.

IIM Kozhikode takes Chandy, ministers's class

Rajesh Ravi

Kozhikode, Aug 18: IIM Kozhikode had 18 new students on Thursday led by 67-year-old Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy including 75-year-old minister Arayadan Mohammed and 29-year-old Jayalakshmi, took lessons from key faculty at the management varsity on fruitful and speedy governance. Later in an interaction with the press, IIM Kozhikode director Debashish Chatterjee rated the team 90-plus points. Oommen Chandy and cabinet minister KM Mani said that the interaction helped them realise that frequent rest between work would improve efficiency and decision-making.

"We, as politicians, endure a lot of tension which hamper decision-making capabilities. We get angry at several occasions. The discussion with the IIM faculty has helped us understand how tension affects our physical and mental health," P K Kunhalikutty, industries minister said while advising the chief minister to reduce his working hours. The programme, structured by the faculty at IIM Kozhikode, was titled 'Governance Insight for Transformation' (GIFT) and covered topics such as time management, taking the fruits of governance to the people, and effective performance of tasks and achievement of goals. "Interacting with politicians of high energy is an experience in learning. I learnt a lot from the team. They were quite disciplined and were willing to follow classroom etiquette which includes no mobiles and no talking," Chatterjee said.

The team had to pay Rs 2,000 per head for a one-day class and interactive sessions with Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, founder of Asia's largest cardiac care centre, Narayana Hridayalaya, and Chanthrajit Chatterjee, director (investments), Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

The idea of bringing ministers to the classroom was mooted by the IIM and Calicut Management Association president Roshan Kainadi. "The objective was to achieve increased productivity and efficiency by sharpening their governance skills, aid in goal-based planning and focus on result-oriented working strategies," Chatterjee said.

Mail Today ND 20/08/2011 p-3

₹2,000 cr for med colleges

THE government will invest over ₹2000 crore in upgrading 19 medical colleges across the country.

According to health minister Ghulam Nabl Azad, the move is being initiated to improve health infrastructure in the country by establishing super-specialty departments, trauma centres and procuring new medical equipment.

The scheme is part of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. In the first phase, 13 medical colleges will be upgraded with an investment of ₹100 crore each, he said.

Out of the 13, civil work has already been completed in five medical colleges.

In the second phase, six medical colleges will be upgraded with a central contribution of ₹125 crore each.

State government medical colleges will also be upgraded by a one-time grant of ₹1350 crore under a new centrally sponsored scheme.

Mail Today

Business Line ND 20/08/2011P-19

Maharashtra delineates conditions for setting up private universities

NewsWire18

Mumbai, Aug. 19

Maharashtra is set to allow private universities in the State as the Legislative Assembly approved the Maharashtra Self-Financed Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill of 2011 on August 10.

The Bill, which was also passed by the Legislative Council on August 11, will now be sent to the Governor for his approval, a top State government official said today.

These private universities will not receive government funds, and will have to ensure inclusion in the University Grants Commission list of Authorised University, according to the Bill, a copy of which is available with NewsWire18.

Partnership with foreign institutions to be permitted

► *Within five years of establishment, these universities will have to obtain an accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council or the National Board of Accreditation.*

The Bill also says that within five years of establishment, these universities will have to obtain an accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council or the National Board of Accreditation.

The Bill has also provided for the minimum campus area for these universities based on their locations. Accordingly, private universities located in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region must have a campus of 4

hectares, in the divisional headquarters 10 hectares, and those located in a tehsil or district headquarters or a rural area must have a campus of at least 20 hectares.

CURRICULA

The State will allow these private universities to teach liberal arts, humanities, social sciences, life sciences and biotechnologies, nano sciences and technologies, engineering, technology, management,

business and commerce, applied and creative arts, vocational education, media, information and communication technology, and education.

"Medical colleges too are part of the Bill and will have to comply with Medical Council of India norms," Mr Rajesh Tope, the Minister of Higher Education, told NewsWire18.

FOREIGN PARTNERSHIP

The State will also permit private universities to collaborate and partner with foreign higher education or research institutions, as per the Bill.

The "sponsoring body" of the private university will have to mandatorily create an Endowment Fund of Rs 100 crore if located in Mumbai

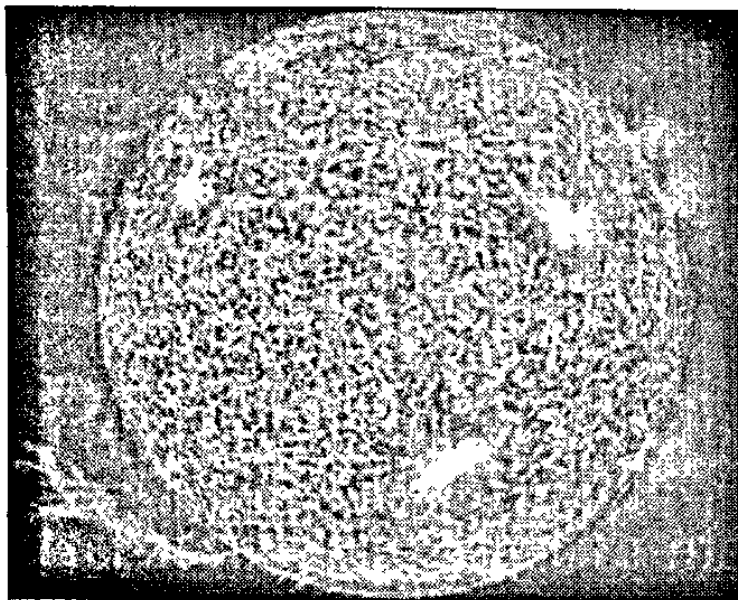
and Rs 5 crore if outside Mumbai. Income from this fund may be utilised for infrastructure development but not for recurring expenditure of the university, the Bill said.

The Endowment Fund can be invested only in long-term securities guaranteed by the government, and the instruments will have to be given to the government for "safe custody" until dissolution of the university, the Bill said.

According to the Bill, the proposal for setting up of a private university, to be considered by a government panel, must have a detailed project report, spelling out the financial resources, plans for land acquisition or details of land and infrastructure, and a phased outlay of capital expenditure for five years.

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Forget hurricanes, is US ready for solar storms?



CHRIS KIMMERLE

LIKE a high-altitude nuclear explosion, a geomagnetic storm (GMS) spawned by solar flares has the ability to shut down electricity transmission/distribution systems and damage computers on Earth.

With the 11-year solar cycle entering a peak period, there is increased risk of GMS and ground induced currents in the transmission system.

Grid operators and satellite communications do not appear ready for the worst-case GMS scenario, which, while highly improbable, could include prolonged blackouts and massive disruption to the US economy.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Japan's recent nuclear disaster, the US government and the power industry are now taking the risk more seriously.

Unlike man-made nuclear bursts, geomagnetic storms are natural phenomena, occur on a periodic basis and can have continent-wide impact.

GMS result from the interaction of solar wind and the earth's magnetic field. They are the hurri-

cans of the magnetosphere and can develop almost instantaneously, have complex wide-spread geographic implications and last for one or more days.

Solar wind intensity increases during periods of high solar activity - solar flares, coronal holes, and disappearing filaments. While frequently coinciding with peaks in the solar cycle, large geomagnetic storms can occur any time.

While the probability of a widespread blackout is low, in 1986, 1989 and 1991 storms caused significant disruptions to power transmission systems across North America and around the world. The 1989 storm caused a blackout that covered all of Quebec and was felt over much of the US. The blackout cost millions of dollars in lost productivity and recovery costs.

The bad news: The combination of increased reliance on information technology for grid management, increases in line voltage and increasing distances between power generation sites and centers of consumption are compounding the risk of serious problems for the nation's power supply from a major storm.

There has been little incentive to reinforce the transmission system against a low probability, high impact event, even when the economic exposure is in the trillions of dollars.

Despite long being aware of the exposure, The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is only now working to "identify the need to assess the current capability of the bulk power system to withstand these severe-impact scenarios and to enhance restoration plans and procedures."

The good news: GMS are often accompanied by spectacular aurora borealis displays. Widespread power failures would knock out the lights in major urban and suburban areas, creating opportunities to watch the northern lights in the dark.

A FEMA planning scenario

In October 2010 the US Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and other domestic and international agencies participated in a workshop on managing critical disasters. Under one planning scenario, an intense GMS occurred in the Northeast and Northern Europe. Within an hour of onset a cascading power outage spread across the eastern and mid-Atlantic United States and eastern Canada.

In the exercise, electric transmission system step-up transformers and transmission transformers were damaged and repairs took weeks to months to complete. The loss of power in turn caused losses of water distribution, sewage disposal, hospital care and phone service as well as fuel resupply problems. Satellite and cell phone services were also disrupted.

The worst-case scenario solar storm lasted 24 hours. Many populated areas were without power for months. Full recovery of the US power grid took six months. An unlikely event? Probably ... but not without precedent. — Reuters

Mahamedha Nd. 20.08.11 p-16

150 करोड़ की लागत से बनेगा आईआईएम भवन

रायपुर (ब्यूरो छग.)। इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के भवन में चल रहे आईआईएम के लिए नया रायपुर में 200 एकड़ भूमि चिन्हित कर ली गई है। 150 करोड़ की लागत से बनेंगे बनेंगे इस भवन के निर्माण के लिए शुक्रवार को बोर्ड के निदेशकों व वास्तुविदों ने प्रस्तावित स्थल का प्रत्यक्ष निरीक्षण किया। केंद्र सरकार ने राज्य में तीन साल पहले आईआईएम की स्थापना के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी थी। आईआईएम वर्तमान में इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के भवन में चल रहा है।

राज्य सरकार ने नया रायपुर में आईआईएम की स्थापना के लिए करीब 200 एकड़ जमीन उपलब्ध कराई है। यहां आईआईएम भवन के अलावा छात्रावास और स्टाफ क्वार्टर का निर्माण भी होगा। करीब 150 करोड़ की लागत से आईआईएम भवन का निर्माण किया

जाएगा। आईआईएम बोर्ड डायरेक्टरों और वास्तुविदों की एक टीम राजधानी पहुंची। उन्होंने आईआईएम की स्थापना के लिए उपलब्ध कराए गए ग्राम पौंता के समीप स्थल निरीक्षण किया। इसके बाद ड्राइंग डिजाइन तैयार करने का काम होगा। ड्राइंग डिजाइन के बाद भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए टेंडर बुलाए जाएंगे।

सूत्रों की माने तो इस पूरे निर्माण कार्य में 3 साल का समय लगेगा। आईआईएम वर्तमान में इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के भवन में पिछले साल ही शुरू हुआ है। वर्तमान में बाहर से फैकल्टी को अध्यायन कार्य के लिए बुलाया गया है। कुछ नियुक्तियां भी हुई हैं। गौरतलब है कि आईआईएम में एडमिशन के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर परीक्षा आयोजित होती है। चयनित छात्रों को ही इसमें प्रवेश दिया जाता है।